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Concluding Paragraph Connection Decade Paper

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Point of View

Thesis Statement

Have your friends ever said you’re a ‘cool cat?’ Have you ever been offered a ‘fag’ on the street? Have you ever seen a movie you thought were ‘totally groovy?’ (Woods, 2009) I know I haven’t, but if I would’ve been born only 45 years earlier, I would have heard these words everyday. These slang words were common in the sixties. Most teenagers wouldn’t even know what these words mean today. Along with the language, the culture of the 60’s grew more and more each year. Many parts of culture could have been perceived as brand new today. I wish I could’ve experienced at least half of the fashions, bands and the numerous amount of people that appeared in the sixties.

Look around town or a classroom. How many girls have their hair puffed up? This started in the 60’s. It’s called a bouffant hairdo. (Feinstein, 2000) Also, how many girls straighten their hair? This was another fad beginning in the 60’s. It started as hair ironing and grew into the most popular hairstyle today. Men, however, have changed their looks dramatically. Does the name bellbottoms sound familiar? How does the name hip-hugger pants in an individuals mind today? (FADS, 2009) These were a modern fashion for men and even women in the 60’s.

The ways of entertainment had many improvements in the 60’s. These were the years of lava lamps, black lights, super balls and even a favorite of people today, Twister! More games and activities than anyone can imagine have 60’s origins. People around on their bubble chairs and bubble couches, playing with yo-yo’s. People could be found any given day experimenting with Ouija boards. Little girls played with Barbie and little boys with G.I. Joe. You could find lite-brites set up in a corner and a spirograph lying on the floor. (FADS, 2009)

The most exciting part of the 60’s would have to be given to the music. Not only did the British Invasion happen which introduced the United States to a large craze of the Beatles, but Woodstock happened. Even though Woodstock happened very late in the sixties, the scene put a personal mark on the 60’s generation in Bethel, New York. This was a three day fair of music, art and popular uses of illegal drugs with an attending audience of over 500,000 people. Musicians greatly honored, such as Jimi Hendrix, Joan Baez and Janis Joplin played on scene. (Feinstein, 2009) This generation is also the one blessed with the grace of the Beatles, with popular songs like ‘Hey Jude,’ ‘Yellow Submarine’ and ‘I want to hold your hand.’

The sixties were famous for a number of items, but of the most famous was the illegal drug usage country wide. Marijuana, cocaine and heroin were some of the most widely used and sold narcotics. Marijuana was used in a variety of circumstances. The most common way of intake, smoking, came with red eyes and coughing. Cocaine was the next step up of dangerous drugs. Cocaine changed the way civilians looked at the world and situations that any other time would seem easy seem extremely difficult and complex. LSD, which means lysergic acid diethylamide, was a mood altering drug that put the body into a state of a severe trip. Several of these hallucinogens and depressants were popular during the music fairs and parties. (Wikipedia Foundation, 2009)

Even after finding out all of this information about the extravagant decade and reading a few sources I already knew, I still find myself in complete awe, amazement and envy. To have experienced such astounding people and events must have been life changing. I could’ve worn bellbottoms, played with a yo-yo’s and saw the Beatles live. (FADS, 2009) Its mind blowing how only ten years can be so impacting on a person’s life.